

## **Utah Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) on Chemical Weapons Demilitarization**

Ophir Park in Ophir Canyon

Ophir, Utah

July 20, 2006

4:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Dennis Downs (Acting Chair), John Bennett, Rosemary Holt, Sidney Hullinger, David Ostler, Beverly White

**Members Absent:** Deborah Kim (Chair), Dan Bauer, Jane Bowman, Gregory Jones, Dennis Rockwell

**Others Present:** Jason Groenewold, Ray Van Pelt, Bob Fowler, John Donnelly, Trace Salmon, Chris Bittner, Clint Warby, Harold Oliver, Reed Holt, Wendy Lessig, Kris Snow, John Wallace, Tim Olinger, Elizabeth Lowes, Joe Majestic, Amy Leetham, Alaine Southworth, Mark Messessan, Martin Gray, Marc DeFrancesco, Ted Ryba, Arlene Lovato

### **I. Welcome/Minutes –Dennis Downs, Acting Chair**

Mr. Downs called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. and welcomed all present.

Ms. Deborah Kim and Gregory Jones were excused from the meeting.

Mr. Downs thanked Sidney Hullinger and the TCEM for their efforts in coordinating the food for the meeting.

A motion for accepting the meeting minutes was put forward by Beverly White and seconded by David Ostler and it was unanimously carried that the March 16, 2006, CAC meeting minutes be accepted.

### **II. Citizens Concerns**

Mr. Groenewold stated that for the last eight years he has been working with the Healthy Environment Alliance (HEAL) of Utah and previous to that Families Against Incinerator Risk (FAIR). Mr. Groenewold stated that the chemical weapons demilitarization was the first issue he was involved with and he wanted to say a formal good-bye to the CAC. Mr. Groenewold thanked the CAC for responding to the comments, questions, and concerns that he raised throughout the years. Mr. Groenewold also thanked the officials at the Depot and EG&G for providing information and the State regulators for all their efforts. Mr. Groenewold stated that during this time he has seen a true commitment from all of the above parties and feels like many improvements have taken place over the years to ensure that chemicals are safely being destroyed in Utah. Mr. Groenewold stated he will now be stepping down and will be pursuing a law degree at the University of Utah.

CAC members stated that they have seen tremendous growth in Mr. Groenewold and appreciated his commitment in ensuring that the CAC was doing the job it had been tasked to perform. On behalf of the CAC, John Bennett thanked Mr. Groenewold for his participation and wished him well in his new endeavor.

Colonel Van Pelt also thanked Mr. Groenewold for all his efforts and the great service he has provided to the citizens of the State of Utah by challenging the Army to present the best and most accurate information to the public.

### **III. Deseret Chemical Depot Update – Colonel Van Pelt**

Colonel Van Pelt announced his reassignment to Edgewood, MD. Colonel Van Pelt will be working as the Chief Support Commander for the Army's Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Force.

Colonel Van Pelt provided the following update: (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

In June, CAMDS restarted closure projects and hazardous waste operations. Since October 2005, the facility has not been operational, due to compliance issues identified by UDEQ. CAMDS has now gone through safety and environmental procedures to ensure the facility is compliant. Also, an operational readiness review process was recently completed at CAMDS. A very serious and disciplined approach is being taken at the operations at CAMDS. The focus for the next two years is closure work.

In June, DCD started mustard sampling. As part of the process the ton containers are heated. As they are heated, "leakers" occur. To date, six leaking bulk containers have been detected. The "leakers" are caused by the heating of the ton containers. They are heated to 80 degrees for about 5-6 days. Nothing is released into the atmosphere. However, each occurrence requires a Press Release to be generated.

A Change of Command Ceremony will take place on July 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. The CAC members were invited to attend the Ceremony. The new commander is Colonel Fred Pellissier. Col. Pellissier has great experience and will provide great leadership.

On September 13, 2006, the CSEPP annual exercise will be conducted. The Chemical Surety Inspection will take place in October. The Chemical Surety Inspection includes the Department of Army, which will be inspecting everything at the facility, including looking at procedures, etc.

Colonel Van Pelt expressed a great appreciation to the CAC for their support and the interaction and the working relationships he has developed with all the members of the CAC. Colonel Van Pelt stated prior to dealing with the CAC, his interaction and working with the public was minimal and he is very proud of the working relationship that was developed with the CAC. To show his appreciation to the CAC, Colonel Van Pelt distributed Commander Coins to each member of the CAC. Commander Coins are normally given to individuals who do superior work at the Depot.

The CAC members thanked Colonel Van Pelt for his honesty and his ability to communicate issues effectively. The CAC members also thanked Colonel Van Pelt for the comfort level he has provided addressing all their concerns in a very informative, professional, manner.

### **IV. Program Status – Mr. Ted Ryba**

Mr. Ryba, TOCDF Site Project Manager, provided an update on the Chemical Disposal Program. (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

#### **•Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (ABCDF) – Maryland**

Closure operations continue with all mustard bulk containers (1,817) drained and neutralized. ABCDF now anticipates a two-plus year closure phase. A stop work order has been lifted after an investigation and hands-on training completed following an incident on June 5, 2006. Systems Contractor (Bechtel Corporate) conducted an independent safety assessment in late June 2006. Assessment focused on positive performance and recommendations for improvement through closure completion.

#### **•Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) – Alabama**

Investigation completed on May 8, 2006 DFS afterburner incident. Improper configuration management was the root cause analysis. Replacement of brick in the DFS afterburner is completed, testing continues. No disposal operations were taking place at the time. Event did not pose any risk to the community. VX startup scheduled to begin later in July 2006.

#### **•Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)– Kentucky**

The ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for October 2006. Redesign actions continue to better balance performance, cost and scheduled objectives. The FY07 budget is \$174.9 million to complete

redesign and project services for the construction phase. In 2007, plant design will be finalized and construction will continue for the main destruction facility. The plant will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing 523 tons of mustard and nerve agents.

**•Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (NECDF) - Indiana**

Secretary of the Army (the Honorable Francis J. Harvey) visited the facility on July 12, 2006, accompanied by CMA officials. Final Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report has been released. The report presents the Army's proposal to safely treat caustic hydrolysate transported from NECDF to the DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment facility in Deepwater, N.J. Completion scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the intermodal container storage area where hydrolysate is temporarily stored. As of July 16, 2006, 346 bulk VX containers have been neutralized totaling 20.5 percent of the entire stockpile.

**•Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (PBCDF) - Arkansas**

M55 GB rockets continue to be processed. On June 13, 2006, processing operations began with the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) to destroy non-stockpile chemical weapons stored at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Many of these weapons were recovered during environmental remediation projects in the 1980's. As of July 16, 2006, 239 tons of GB agent has been destroyed totaling 6.2 percent of the entire stockpile.

**•Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) – Colorado**

Stage one construction continues with seven miles of fencing completed. The new Defense Access Road is under construction, which will create a new entrance and exit to the post. Construction of the new Access Control Point is underway. Plant redesign submitted to the government in March; response from the government expected in August when the Defense Acquisition Board meets. If the government accepts the redesign, it is expected that Congress will follow with a long term project funding cycle this fall.

**•Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (UMCDF) – Oregon**

On June 9, 2006, disposal of all GB bombs was completed at UMCDF, the last GB bombs in the U.S. stockpile. Workers are now in "changeover" from bombs to prepare for projectiles while continuing M55 GB rocket processing. On July 10, rocket processing passed the 89 percent destruction mark of the rocket stockpile. The GASP I trial concluded in June in Portland. Activists are legally challenging the state issuance in 1997 of the UMCDF environmental permits; they are now awaiting judge's decision. As of July 16, 2006, 721 tons of GB agent has been destroyed totaling 19.4 percent of the entire stockpile.

The Chemical Disposal Program Update included graphs indicating the national levels of the following agents being destroyed, dated July 16, 2006. (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

Percentage of CMA total agent stockpile destroyed: Total stockpile 31,498 tons.  
Total destroyed 12,460 tons = 39.6%, total remaining 19,036 tons = 60.4%

Percentage of GB agent CMA stockpile destroyed: Total stockpile 9,612 tons.  
Total destroyed 8,768 tons = 91.2%, total remaining 844 tons = 8.8%  
Percentage of VX agent CMA stockpile destroyed: Total stockpile 4,512 tons.  
Total destroyed 1,776 tons = 39.4%, total remaining 2,736 tons = 60.6%

Percentage of Mustard agent CMA stockpile destroyed: Total stockpile 17,361 tons.  
Total destroyed 1,916 tons = 11%, total remaining 15,445 tons = 89%

**V. Plant Status – Mr. Joe Majestic**

Joe Majestic, Deputy General Manager, and Tim Olinger, Deputy General Manager, presented the TOCDF Update on Safety Performance and Environmental Performance. (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

Safety: goal of  $\leq 1.0$  RIR, 12-Month recordable injury rate is at 1.54 (excluding food-borne illnesses). As of July 2006, TOCDF has worked 42 days without a recordable injury. The last recordable injury occurred on June 8, 2006. As of July 9, 2006, TOCDF has worked 1,305,015 consecutive hours or 257

days without a lost work day injury. TOCDF has been paying more attention to first aid injuries and human performance skills have been implemented.

The RCRA Human Error Non-Compliance 12-month rolling average increased from 1.08 to 1.33 since the last CAC meeting due to two Human Error non-compliances in May and two in June.

Tim Olinger, Deputy General Manager, provided the following information on the Area 10 HD Sampling Status and Performance. Mr. Olinger stated the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) was completed certifying the readiness of TOCDF to sample mustard ton containers at Area 10. Ton container sampling started June 7, 2006, and various solid heel level, pressures and mercury concentrations have been identified. As of July 19, 2006, 165 total mustard tons have been sampled. To date, 38% of the ton containers are available for baseline processing. Only a few lots constitute the elevated mercury ton containers and igloo selections based on lots stored are now being reviewed.

#### Demilitarization Equipment:

**Ton Containers:** The bulk drain station solid-sensing drain tubes have been installed. The systemization is complete. The Class 2 Modification Permit for the bulk drain system drain tube was approved April 12, 2006. The system is now ready to operate.

**4.2 Inch Mortars:** Preparations for the Multiple Demilitarization Machine (MDM) Crimp and Bore Station removal is complete. Installation of AQS/Froth Collection system is in progress.

#### Furnace Status:

**Metal Parts Furnace (MPF)** scheduled maintenance outage is complete. The Furnace is at temperature and ready to operate. The DAL confirmation method development in progress.

**Liquid Incinerator 2 (LIC2):** The scheduled maintenance outage is complete. The Furnace is at temperature and ready to operate.

**LIC1:** The scheduled outage is complete. Exhaust duct venturi repair and refractory inspected and the root cause investigation is in process.

#### Monitoring Changeovers

**ACAMS:** 107 baselines complete, 12 baselines in progress, and scheduled to be completed 7/26/06.

**LSS Monitoring:** All stations are complete. The Baseline in process and scheduled to be completed July 30, 2006.

The Class 2 Permit Modification for the Agent Monitoring Plan was approved April 5, 2006.

#### Mercury Monitoring

Furnace duct modifications are complete. Alternate monitoring request approved by the EPA on April 27, 2006. The QA/QC Plan was approved and RATA protocol has been submitted. AMR sampling equipment installed and the procedure validation is complete. Training and certification is in process. Laboratory and equipment is installed. The procedure validation is complete. Training and certification is in process.

#### Mercury Process Monitor (MPM)

Not required to initiate campaign, the facility modification is complete. MPM Testing: Near Real-Time Instruments, Delayed to Focus Resources Batch Instrument: Lab Test Complete with acceptable performance when test against Appendix K, and initial training is complete.

#### PAS Filtration System:

Tie-Ins are complete, with 10% design review complete, and 30% filtration design in process. Carbon testing validated ability of sulphur-impregnated carbon will meet MACT standard MPF installation scheduled for early 2008, LICS to follow.

#### **Operational Readiness Review (ORR)**

The ORR plan for HD baseline processing is approved and the Team is established. The security/surety ORR was completed July 13, 2006. Management self assessments will be completed by July 17, 2006. The ORR expected to begin the week of July 24, 2006. The expected start of HD baseline processing is August 18, 2006.

#### **Environmental Permitting Status**

All major environmental permitting approvals necessary for baseline HD TC processing have been obtained. They include: the Class 2 Permit Modification for changes to the Agent Monitoring Plan, Class 2 Permit Modification for Revised Bulk Drain System Drain Tube Design, Class 3 Permit Modification for Baseline HD TC Processing (recently received July 7, 2006), and Alternative Monitoring Request for Mercury Compliance Monitoring Approach.

Rosemary Holt asked about the importance of the mercury monitoring. Mr. Olinger stated that mercury monitoring is essential. It is a top priority and it is essential that the mercury monitoring is done.

Ms. Holt asked if the mercury exists because the ton containers were not cleaned. Mr. Olinger stated that the mercury is not from a chemical reaction and that the occurrence of mercury is from impurities that came from one of two sources. (1) A lot of the ton containers were reused containers that were previously used to contain Lewisite, and mercury was a catalyst for lewisite. The containers were emptied and not cleaned properly before they were reused. (2) Thermometers and other pressure gauges that contained mercury were broken and thrown into the containers, causing a contamination to occur. Ms. Holt asked if the mercury issue is unique to this site only. Army representatives stated that the stockpile at Umatilla also has similar issues. Utah has the largest amount of mustard to deal with. Therefore, all the other sites will be paying close attention to how it is handled. Ms. Holt requested that the Army keep the CAC informed on the status of Mercury. It was stated that maybe one of the reasons that the containers were not cleaned properly was because Mercury was not considered a major environmental problem in years past.

#### **VI. DSHW Update –Mr. Marty Gray**

All major modifications have been completed at TOCDF. One major modification at CAMDS being reviewed deals with the closure standards/treatment standards, which is now classified as a Class 3 Modification. A draft permit will be developed and will go out to public comment.

Eight former defense agent sites at Dugway will be capped this year. Rosemary Holt asked if the CAC has any involvement with Dugway Proving Ground. Dennis Downs stated that the CAC was established on to deal with the chemical stockpile. However, other related issues are brought to the CAC as a matter of interest.

#### **VII. New Business:**

Beverly White gave a briefing from the CSEPP National Workshop. The workshop was held June 26-29, 2006. Beverly White stated the meeting was very informative. Ms. White also stated that she now has a better understanding and concept of the work that is performed at TOCDF. Ms. White stated that the national esteem that is displayed to Utah was very commendable to witness. Ms. White also stated that Utah has a very committed CAC, as discussions she held with other states indicate they are not so fortunate. Ms. White stated that overall she was very impressed with the workshop and was also able to receive more information regarding chemicals, etc. Overall, Utah is far ahead of the other installations/states.

Dennis Downs, once again, expressed appreciation to Colonel Van Pelt for the work that he has achieved and wished him to best on his new assignment.

In appreciation to Colonel Van Pelt, Kari Sagers, TCEM, provided a variety of items to the Colonel to wish him well in his new assignment. Elaine Southworth, Outreach Office, also presented Colonel Van Pelt with a going away gift.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 21, 2006, at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (Bldg. 2) Room 101, located at 168 North 1950 West, SLC, Utah at 6:30 p.m.